

**BILL NO. 2007-36**

**ORDINANCE NO. 5923**

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR HILLSIDE AREAS WITHIN THE CITY, AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Sponsored by: Councilman Larry Brown

Summary: Adopts development standards and guidelines for hillside areas.

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LAS VEGAS DOES HEREBY ORDAIN  
AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION 1: Title 19, Chapter 6, of the Municipal Code of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada, is hereby amended by adding thereto a new section, designated as Section 19.06.170, reading as follows:

**19.06.170: HILLSIDE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**

(A) Introduction. The west boundary of the City of Las Vegas abuts the Spring Mountain Range. A significant portion of the area along this boundary is designated as national conservation and wilderness area. Eventually the foothills leading up to this area will be affected by development and will require special consideration and a development style that will provide for the unique situations which result from the slope of the land.

(B) Adoption, Purpose and Intent

(1) The purposes of this Section are to:

(a) Adopt criteria for the development of properties within hillside areas, which are defined as any portion of land with a vertical slope of fifteen percent or greater; and

(b) Ensure that development in hillside areas is in compliance with the goals, policies, and implementing strategies of the Las Vegas 2020 Master Plan, namely, Policy 3.5.3, which provides as follows:

*Policy 3.5.3: That, where possible, development be designed and oriented to ensure that view sheds of the mountain ranges surrounding the Las Vegas Valley are preserved, possibly through the development of a foothills ordinance or a set of specific urban design guidelines.*

1           (2)     This Section:

2                   (a)     Shall apply to development with natural slopes of fifteen percent or more;

3                   (b)     Is intended to encourage and guide low density, rural type, large lot or cluster,  
4 single family residential development that is designed to be compatible with the hillside terrain and  
5 its environment; and

6                   (c)     Is intended to guide the design of development to work with the land, rather  
7 than to alter the land to accommodate the development.

8           (3)     In general, all development in hillside areas shall be designed with the following  
9 considerations:

10                   (a)     Protect and conserve significant natural and visual resources, including major  
11 boulder outcrops, major ridges and peaks, prime wildlife habitat, and unique vegetation specimens;

12                   (b)     Protect people and property from potentially hazardous conditions that are  
13 particular to mountains and hillside areas, including rock falls, other unstable slopes, flooding,  
14 subsidence, erosion and sedimentation, range fires, soils with high shrink-swell capacity, foundation  
15 instability, and air pollution;

16                   (c)     Protect water quality, air quality, and other resources, such as soil and natural  
17 vegetation, from incompatible land uses;

18                   (d)     Minimize the public costs of providing public services and facilities such as  
19 streets, water, sewer, emergency services, sanitation services, parks and recreation;

20                   (e)     Ensure that decisions regarding development in hillside areas are based on  
21 complete and accurate information about the environmental conditions and probable development  
22 impacts;

23                   (f)     Minimize the impacts of development by controlling the location, intensity,  
24 pattern, design, construction techniques, and materials of development and construction;

25                   (g)     Maintain significant open spaces that provide view corridors and land-use  
26 buffers, and maintain the City's unique desert setting;

27                   (h)     Protect landmarks, prime wash area habitats, and environmentally sensitive  
28 lands, while also recognizing the legitimate expectations of property owners and the City's overall

economic goals;

(i) Encourage innovative planning, design, and construction techniques for development in environmentally sensitive areas; and

(j) Minimize grading and site disturbance to maximize compatibility with the natural terrain.

(C) Standards and Guidelines

Development plans must demonstrate compliance with this Section. However, there is flexibility in the degree to which a requirement of this Section may be addressed by a development plan and the method used to comply. An applicant who believes that a particular standard does not or should not apply to the applicant's project has the burden to demonstrate why not, and to provide a solution that will meet the intent of the goals and objectives of this Section.

(1) Density

(a) The maximum density for a proposed development shall be that permitted by the adopted plan for the area in which the proposed development is located. Where no specific plan for that area has been adopted, the maximum density shall be that established by the land use element of the General Plan.

(b) The maximum recommended density within hillside development is two units per acre. Large lot development is encouraged. Non-residential development other than public facilities is discouraged.

(c) One hundred percent site disturbance may occur on areas of a lot or parcel with a slope of less than fifteen percent. Sites with a slope of fifteen percent or greater are subject to the allowable maximum percentage of site disturbance as set forth below:

| Slope      | Maximum Site Disturbance | Minimum Undisturbed Area of Site |
|------------|--------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 15% to 25% | 50%                      | 50%                              |
| Over 25%   | 35%                      | 65%                              |

(d) Density and site disturbance may be transferred from portions of a lot or parcel with a slope of fifteen percent or greater to any other portion of the lot, parcel or development site.

1 The portions of the lot or parcel from which density and site disturbance are transferred shall be  
2 designated as natural areas. The gross density of the parcel(s) to which density is transferred shall not  
3 exceed that allowed by the zoning of the property.

4 (2) Site Design (See Figures 1 and 2)

5 (a) Structures shall be sited in a manner that will fit into the hillside's contour and  
6 relate to the form of the terrain. This may be done through a variety of methods, such as varying  
7 setbacks and structure heights; the use of innovative building techniques (e.g., earth shelter or earth  
8 berm construction); and retaining walls.

9 (b) Site design should take into account the need to do the following, while  
10 maintaining the natural character of a hillside area:

11 (i) Preserve vistas of natural hillside areas and ridgelines from "key vantage  
12 points";

13 (ii) Preserve views from existing development; and

14 (iii) Allow new dwellings access to views similar to those enjoyed from  
15 existing dwellings.

16 (c) Site design should allow for different lot shapes and sizes, as well as split  
17 development pads, with the prime determinant being the natural terrain.

18 (3) Grading, Slope Stabilization, Drainage Design

19 Disturbance to the natural landform should be minimized, should not destroy visual quality and  
20 community character, and should not create conditions that result in flooding or erosion. Grading  
21 design should address both safety and aesthetics, incorporating the following requirements and  
22 guidelines:

23 (a) Portions of a site or lot that are to be graded must be clearly shown on the  
24 grading plan.

25 (b) Landform or contour measures should be utilized to produce cut and fill slopes  
26 that are compatible with existing land character. Continuous unbroken slope surfaces that are visible  
27 from off the site are discouraged.

28 (c) Berms at top of slopes and other locations should be used to screen, vary

1 profile, and insure drainage away from slopes.

2 (d) Where any cut or fill slope exceeds ten feet in horizontal length, the horizontal  
3 contours of the slope shall be developed to appear similar to the existing natural contours. (See  
4 Figure 3)

5 (e) Grading should be balanced on site whenever possible to avoid excessive cut  
6 and fill, and to avoid the unnecessary import or export of earth material.

7 (f) No grubbing, grading or clearing shall occur prior to the approval of civil  
8 improvement plans and final grading plans by the Director of Public Works and the issuance of a  
9 grading permit. Grubbing, grading, clearing and stockpiling are only to occur in areas identified for  
10 those activities on the approved grading plan.

11 (g) All portions of the site or lot that are to be left ungraded are to remain  
12 undisturbed, and are not to be used for stockpiling of materials or excess fill.

13 (h) Areas on a site that are designated as natural areas shall be temporarily fenced,  
14 or a barrier placed where they abut construction areas, in order to prevent any disturbance of the  
15 natural area.

16 (i) Disturbed areas shall be restored as close as possible to their natural condition  
17 by using eonite, permeon, or a similar approved process designed to restore natural color to the  
18 landscape.

19 (j) Sides of roadways and driveways that are disturbed shall be revegetated,  
20 revarnished, or both.

21 (k) Cut or fill design on slopes that encroach into a floodplain must be approved  
22 by the Director of Planning and Development and the Director of Public Works concurrent with final  
23 grading plan approval.

24 (l) Pad elevations above street level shall be varied to avoid the appearance  
25 associated with monotonous, flat, level pads.

26 (m) Unless addressed by means of a retaining wall, slopes that are steeper than  
27 thirty-three percent, and slopes for which such stabilization is recommended or required by a  
28 geotechnical report, shall be stabilized with properly engineered stone rip rapping, sculptured rock or

1 other similar material as follows:

2 (i) Stabilizing material shall blend with the natural appearance of the site  
3 or lot and its surrounding terrain.

4 (ii) Vegetation retention and revegetation shall be used in conjunction with  
5 rip rapping.

6 (iii) All site revegetation and varnishing shall be completed within ninety  
7 days after completion of work or prior to issuance of a final inspection approval, whichever occurs  
8 first.

9 (n) Project designs shall be in accordance with the Clark County Regional Flood  
10 Control District Hydrologic Criteria and Drainage Design Manual, and shall maintain natural runoff  
11 characteristics where at all possible.

12 (4) Architecture/Building Design

13 Dwellings built within hillside areas shall conform to the following:

14 (a) Reflective building materials (i.e. mirror finishes or metal roofs) are not  
15 permitted unless treated to eliminate glare.

16 (b) Limited slab-on-grade, with staggered floor elevations, shall be utilized to avoid  
17 massive building forms, excessive cuts and fill, and surfaces which contrast with the surrounding  
18 terrain.

19 (c) All external mechanical equipment shall be screened, and required vents shall  
20 be architecturally compatible with the structure.

21 (d) Building architecture should have predominant horizontal features. Vertical  
22 features should be minimized and generally used to accentuate entryways, garages, main doors and  
23 any type of vertical embellishment.

24 (e) No portion of a structure shall exceed a height of two stories or thirty-five feet,  
25 and a minimum of twenty feet of the structure must be lower than the elevation of the primary  
26 ridgeline.

27 (f) Dwellings shall use wall articulation (e.g., insets, pop-outs, etc.) and roof  
28 orientation as a means to prevent a massive look.

1 (g) Rooflines and elements shall reflect the naturally occurring ridgeline silhouettes  
2 and topographical variation in order to blend with the hillside. (See Figure 4)

3 (h) Building materials and colors shall be compatible with the natural setting.  
4 Whenever possible, exterior colors shall be limited to earthtones that are found in nearby natural  
5 vegetation or soil, that come from natural sources (e.g., rock, stone, wood), or that resemble a natural  
6 appearance.

7 (5) Clustered Development

8 Clustered development is encouraged as a means of preserving the natural appearance of the hillside  
9 and maximizing the amount of open space. Under this concept, dwelling units are grouped in the  
10 more level portions of the site, while steeper areas are preserved in a natural state. Clustering can  
11 enhance the environmental sensitivity of a development project, and facilitate the permanent  
12 protection of key features of the natural environment, such as biological habitats, open space areas,  
13 scenic areas, ridgelines, and steep slopes. (See Figure 5) Also, it is often more feasible to provide the  
14 needed infrastructure for a cluster development, since clustering results in shorter roads and water,  
15 sewer, and utility lines. Clustering does not allow an increase in the overall density of an area beyond  
16 that which is otherwise permitted by the General Plan.

17 (a) Clustered dwelling units shall be placed in a staggered or stepped manner so  
18 their visual impact is lessened.

19 (b) Clustered subdivisions shall be sited so they do not have a dominant presence  
20 within the hillside.

21 (c) The location of clustered units shall be restricted to the flatter portions of a site,  
22 unless another location better minimizes impacts as relates to public safety, visual impact or  
23 environmental issues.

24 (d) Clustered development must preserve open space in its undeveloped form.  
25 Appropriate documents must be recorded to ensure the preservation of the open space areas in  
26 perpetuity. Open space areas shall be identified on the final subdivision map or parcel map as  
27 common lots.

28 (6) Walls and Fences

- 1 (a) The height of walls shall be in accordance with Section 9.12.075.
- 2 (b) Walls shall conform to the topography of the site. (See Figure 6)
- 3 (c) Walls shall either incorporate the use of native materials or be earthtone colors
- 4 to match the native soils and rocks. Walls and fences (other than retaining walls) should be made of
- 5 natural materials (e.g., stone, wood, split rail) whenever possible and, at a minimum, shall be a color
- 6 that blends with the surrounding environment. Where retaining walls front on or are visible from
- 7 public streets or public vantage points, they shall be constructed of (or faced with) materials that are
- 8 appropriate in color and texture to help visually blend the wall into the terrain.
- 9 (d) The use of retaining walls and retaining structures is encouraged when it
- 10 significantly reduces site grading. (See Figure 7)
- 11 (e) Large retaining walls in a uniform plane should be avoided. Retaining walls
- 12 should be broken up into elements and terraces, with landscaping used to screen them from view. (See
- 13 Figures 7 and 8)
- 14 (f) Retaining structures shall be located so that they do not become a dominating
- 15 visual feature.
- 16 (g) Tall retaining structures that are absolutely necessary should be located behind
- 17 the dwelling so as to be screened from view.
- 18 (h) Whenever possible, the location of walls and fences (other than retaining walls)
- 19 should be limited to areas within fifty feet of dwellings and accessory structures in order to limit their
- 20 impact on hillside viewsheds.
- 21 (i) Solid walls and fences shall be prohibited within fifty vertical feet of a ridgeline
- 22 in order to prevent impacts on wildlife corridors and maintain the natural area surrounding the
- 23 ridgeline.
- 24 (j) Fences that have pointed vertical elements shall not be permitted.
- 25 (7) Landscaping
- 26 Landscape improvements on the overall project site shall be integrated with the natural topography
- 27 and existing or indigenous vegetation. Plant materials shall be used to mitigate development impacts
- 28 on washes, slopes, and any other sensitive environmental features.



1 (a) The use of non-native or competitive species that could threaten the native flora  
2 within the area is prohibited.

3 (b) Landscape design for all development shall consist of plant materials similar  
4 in form and scale to the existing vegetation in the area.

5 (c) Each natural area shall contain only those species that are indigenous to the  
6 native desert or mountain elevation and climate zone in which it exists.

7 (d) The interface between new development and natural open space shall be  
8 designed to provide a gradual transition from manufactured slopes into natural slopes.

9 (e) Landscaping (which is compatible with natural vegetation) shall be designed  
10 so that it extends out from developed areas and forms a cohesive pattern with existing natural  
11 vegetation, arranged in random, informal groupings. (See Figure 9)

12 (f) Landscaping along the slope side of development shall be designed to maintain  
13 controlled views from the residences, yet screen and soften the architecture from community vantage  
14 points.

15 (g) Trees and shrubs shall be arranged in informal, randomly spaced masses, and  
16 shall be placed selectively to reduce the scale of and help to blend manufactured slopes.

17 (h) Plant materials that are used to stabilize a graded slope shall blend with the  
18 surrounding native plant materials in color and texture to the greatest extent feasible.

19 (i) Landscaping shall be designed so as to avoid invasive species that could  
20 negatively impact indigenous plant species. Invasive species shall be identified through a recognized  
21 resource, such as a local Cooperative Weed Management Area.

22 (8) Trails

23 (a) Each subdivision shall provide and maintain pedestrian access for trails that are  
24 identified in the City's Trail Master Plan and that are located within the subdivision, including  
25 subdivisions that are to be established as gated communities.

26 (b) A trail system that is designed to preserve habitat and ensure public safety shall  
27 be provided to link new development to existing trails within hillside areas.

28 (c) New subdivisions shall prepare a trails plan to link new residential areas to

1 existing and planned trails in the City that are shown in the Trails Elements of the City's Master Plan,  
2 including hiking, equestrian and multi-use trails. The subdivision's trails plan must be submitted to  
3 the City for review and approval.

4 (d) Once approved by the City, the trails identified in each subdivision's trails plan  
5 shall be constructed by the developer prior to the final inspection of residential units. Such trails shall  
6 be maintained as agreed to by the developer and the City.

7 (9) Open Space/Natural Areas

8 (a) Portions of hillside areas will be retained in their natural state.

9 (b) Within areas designated as natural areas, site disturbance, other than for the  
10 construction of hiking trails, is not permitted.

11 (c) Any area designated as a natural area shall be shown on the tentative  
12 subdivision map with existing surveyed topographical information, and the area itself shall be  
13 identified with horizontal control data on the final subdivision map or parcel map.

14 (d) Any area designated as a natural area may be designated as a separate parcel  
15 or as a deed-restricted portion of a parcel. If designated as a separate parcel, such parcel:

16 (i) May be under the ownership of a owners' association or may be deeded  
17 to any organization which accepts responsibility for the perpetual preservation and maintenance of the  
18 natural area, subject to approval and acceptance by the Directors of Planning and Development and  
19 Public Works; and

20 (ii) Shall be mapped as a common lot in order to help protect natural areas.

21 (10) Circulation/Roadways

22 (a) All public or private roadways shall be designed according to the standards of  
23 this Section, the Master Plan of Streets and Highways (if applicable), the Municipal Code, current City  
24 Standards and, if required, an approved traffic study. These standards are intended to supplement the  
25 Public Works Department Review Guidelines. Streets in hillside areas should be constructed in areas  
26 that would have the least impact on the natural environment.

27 (b) The following elements of road and sidewalk circulation shall be incorporated  
28 in hillside area developments:

- 1 (i) Roadway design which generally follows existing contours, thereby  
2 minimizing grading and resulting in an informal, curving internal network;
- 3 (ii) The provision of two major points of access to principal roads in  
4 developments exceeding one hundred fifty units or when required by the Department of Fire and  
5 Rescue in order to minimize fire hazards;
- 6 (iii) Roadways with a maximum slope of seven percent; (See Figure 10 for  
7 illustration of a seven percent slope in comparison to other slopes)
- 8 (iv) Preservation of existing trees and natural features by dividing or routing  
9 roads and sidewalks around these elements;
- 10 (v) Provision of safe, convenient pedestrian access to schools, parks and  
11 other recreational facilities;
- 12 (vi) Combinations of collective private driveways, cluster parking areas and  
13 off-street parking bays, which are encouraged in order to minimize paved areas;
- 14 (vii) The location of all utilities underground in a common trench in the  
15 parkway or under the sidewalk;
- 16 (viii) Rolled curbs as the preferred road edge along any paved roads, where  
17 such curbing will be adequate to contain drainage and prevent erosion;
- 18 (ix) Roadway improvements that do not adversely affect other properties or  
19 create the need for extensive grading, flood control facilities, or other types of construction or support  
20 infrastructure;
- 21 (x) Roadways that meet the requirements of the Department of Fire and  
22 Rescue, including roadway grades and curves to accommodate safety and emergency vehicles;
- 23 (xi) Streets that follow the natural contours of the hillside to minimize cut  
24 and fill;
- 25 (xii) Cul-de-sacs or loop roads, which are encouraged where they are  
26 necessary to fit the terrain;
- 27 (xiii) The elimination of on-street parking and sidewalks in order to reduce  
28 required grading, subject to approval thereof by the Planning Commission or City Council (or both)

1 as a specific element of an approved Site Development Plan Review;

2 (xiv) The preferred use of driveways that serve more than one lot, as well as  
3 diagonal driveways running along contour lines, where:

4 A. Such driveways will reduce the need for grading, paving, and  
5 site disturbance;

6 B. Such driveways have been approved by the Department of Fire  
7 and Rescue;

8 C. Sight visibility restriction zones will be maintained in  
9 accordance with the most recent version of the guidelines of the American Association of Street and  
10 Highway Transportation Officials; and

11 D. The maximum change in grade between driveway slope and the  
12 cross-slope of roadways is twelve percent for local roadways, and ten percent for collector roadways;  
13 and

14 (xv) Street lighting that is limited to intersections and other locations where  
15 necessary in order to provide safe access or passage, as determined by the Director of Public Works.  
16 Facilities for other public street lighting will be stubbed out for later use, including all necessary  
17 underground conduit and pull boxes at each streetlight location, but the installation of the streetlights  
18 may be deferred provided that the developer provide to the City such streetlights for the future  
19 installation. Alternatively, monies in lieu of such deferred streetlights, including bases, may be  
20 contributed to the City if allowed by the Department of Public Works.

21 (D) HILLSIDE DEVELOPMENT DESIGN REVIEW

22 (1) The objective of the Hillside Development Design Review under this Subsection (D)  
23 is to preserve significant natural features within hillside areas by encouraging design that minimizes  
24 disturbance to existing topographical forms. A development should be designed to fit into hillside  
25 areas rather than altering the earth forms to create a flatland type of development.

26 (2) Project design should:

27 (a) Initially identify the existing geographic, topographic, and environmental  
28 features of the site (such as geological hazards, steep slopes, ridges, valleys, streams, views, existing

1 drainage patterns, significant biota, and outcroppings); and

2 (b) Then determine the impact the proposed project will have on these elements.

3 (3) Preparation of a site plan should be based upon a determination concerning how traffic  
4 circulation, fire protection and access, drainage, sound barriers, buffers, land alteration, and other  
5 measures will be employed to limit any negative impacts of the development. The final site plan  
6 should reflect how all of these impacts are successfully solved or mitigated.

7 (4) Other elements that should be considered in a successful design and, where indicated,  
8 reflected in submittal documents are the following:

9 (a) Preservation of distinctive natural features, the general existing topographical  
10 forms, significant trees, landscaping, natural water courses and wildlife corridors, with data and aerial  
11 maps to be provided showing the location, type and nature of existing major vegetation, including  
12 significant clusters or contiguous areas of dense growth and existing vegetation to be preserved;

13 (b) Preservation of prominent skyline ridges, which must be shown by providing  
14 a graph or other visual analysis indicating rooftop in relation to ridgeline; (See Figure 11)

15 (c) The location of roads and structures below the skyline ridge, with a visual  
16 analysis to be provided indicating circulation related to existing contours;

17 (d) The location and construction of roadways, with drawings and explanations to  
18 be provided showing how roadways will be constructed in a manner compatible with the natural  
19 terrain and with scarring eliminated;

20 (e) Incorporation of hiking, biking, walking and equestrian trails, where  
21 appropriate;

22 (f) Variation in lot size, building placements, setbacks, and orientation;

23 (g) Variable changes in elevation and siting of buildings to ensure views and avoid  
24 monotony;

25 (h) Preservation of steep hillsides by clustering buildings or use of other innovative  
26 approaches;

27 (i) Sensitivity to the project's appearance from lower or adjacent development;

28 (j) Placement of equipment and other unsightly forms below ridgelines and in

bermed and landscaped areas.

(k) Dwelling design, with documentation to be provided indicating that significant effort has been made towards incorporating energy-conservation and water saving techniques;

(l) Maintenance of natural drainage/water runoff characteristics where possible;

(m) The use of exterior lighting for buildings that is:

(i) Of a "cut-off" type designed to ensure that excess light does not spill over; and

(ii) Of the lowest intensity feasible so as to be adequate for the purposes intended but not likely to attract undue attention.

(5) Prior to the submittal of an application for Site Development Plan Review, a grading plan and drainage plan must be submitted to and approved by the Department of Public Works. The plans must clearly identify the topography of the land and how it relates to the development. Areas known or suspected to be hazardous, as determined by the Department of Public Works, shall not be disturbed without a geological survey, other data and tests, or a combination thereof, as required by the Department of Public Works. The submittal must include or be accompanied by a topographic map of the area proposed for development and shall show the location of, and distinguish, each of the following slope categories:

(a) Slope less than 15%

(b) Slope between 15% - 20%

(c) Slope between 20.01% - 25%

(d) Slope greater than 25%

(6) A final grading plan must first be approved by the Director of Planning and Development before Site Development Plan Review is considered by the Planning Commission. The Director's review shall coincide with staff review of the Site Development Plan and drainage study.

(7) Site Development Plan Review for all hillside area development shall be processed as a public hearing item. In order to address the sensitive nature of hillside development, the final grading plan that was approved with the Drainage Study and by the Planning and Development Director shall be submitted with the design review applications.

- 1           (8)     The burden of proof is on the applicant to demonstrate that the proposed development:
- 2                   (a)     Is located and designed so as to protect the safety of residents and will not
- 3 create significant threats to life or property by reason of the presence of hazards relating to geology,
- 4 slope instability, flood, fire or erosion;
- 5                   (b)     Is compatible with the natural, biotic, cultural, scenic and open space resources
- 6 of the area;
- 7                   (c)     Can be conveniently served by neighborhood shopping and provided essential
- 8 public services without imposing significant costs on the total community;
- 9                   (d)     Is consistent with the objectives and policies of the General Plan; and
- 10                  (e)     Incorporates creative and imaginative design, resulting in a visual quality that
- 11 will complement community character and benefit residents.

12           (9)     Any variance from or adjustment to any requirement set forth in this Section may be

13 obtained by means of a Variance application in accordance with LVMC 19.18.070.

14 (E)     FIGURES

15 Figures referred to in this Section are set forth below.

16                                 (Insert Figures 1-11 here)

17           SECTION 2: Title 19, Chapter 20, Section 20, of the Municipal Code of the City of

18 Las Vegas, Nevada, 1983 Edition, is hereby amended by adding, at the appropriate locations, the

19 following terms and their corresponding definitions:

20 “Cut” means the excavation and mechanical removal of earth material.

21 “Cut and Fill” means the excavation and mechanical removal of earth material, and the relocation

22 thereof, for purposes of altering the level or slope of land.

23 “Fill” means the placement of sand, gravel or other earth material for purposes of building up the

24 level of land or altering slope.

25 “Gross Density” means the number of dwelling units per acre of land, without deduction for public

26 streets, easements or other areas to be dedicated.

27 “Hillside Area” means land with a slope of fifteen percent or greater.

28 “Manufactured Slope” means slope that results from mechanical excavation or fill activity.

1 “Natural Slope” means slope which is not manufactured.

2 “Primary Ridgeline” means the ridgeline that has the greatest prominent public visibility from  
3 existing and undeveloped portions of the City.

4 “Ridgeline” means a line connecting the series of the highest elevation points of a ridge, mountain,  
5 shoulder, hill or mesa.

6 “Slope” means the incline associated with a land surface.

7 SECTION 3: Title 19, Chapter 6, of the Municipal Code of the City of Las Vegas,  
8 Nevada, 1983 Edition, is hereby amended by amending the title of the chapter to read as follows:

9 **19.06 SPECIAL PURPOSE DISTRICTS, [AND] OVERLAY DISTRICTS AND OTHER AREA-**  
10 **SPECIFIC STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES**

11 SECTION 4: Title 19, Chapter 6, Section 10, of the Municipal Code of the City of  
12 Las Vegas, Nevada, 1983 Edition, is hereby amended to read as follows:

13 **19.06.010: Purpose and Intent**

14 The Special Purpose Districts, [and] Overlay Districts and other area-specific standards and guidelines  
15 established in this Chapter;

16 (A) Are [are] to be used in areas of the City which have special characteristics and require  
17 special zoning regulations to establish and maintain the character of those areas; [. Special Purpose  
18 and Overlay Districts may include, for properties located therein,]

19 (B) May include, as applicable, special regulations regarding land use, buildings and  
20 structures, building height, building site areas, setback requirements, landscaping, streetscape and  
21 aesthetic characteristics, and any other item or concern regulated by this Title.

22 SECTION 5: The Supplemental Document Amending the NFPA 1, Uniform Fire  
23 Code, 2003 Edition, adopted by Ordinance No. 5667 of the City of Las Vegas, is hereby amended by  
24 amending Section 13.3.2.12.4, as adopted therein, to read as follows:

25 **13.3.2.12.4 New One and Two-Family Dwellings.** New One- and Two-Family Dwellings shall meet  
26 the following requirements.

27 (A) Buildings constructed under the International Building Code shall be protected  
28 throughout by an automatic sprinkler system in accordance with NFPA 13, 13R, or 13D, as permitted



1 by the International Building Code. The automatic sprinkler system shall also meet the requirements  
2 of section 13.3.2.12.5.

3 (B) Buildings constructed under the International Residential Code shall be protected  
4 throughout by an automatic sprinkler system when required by the International Residential Code or  
5 the following:

6 (1) Where required by Chapter 18 – Fire Department Access and Water Supply,  
7 or elsewhere by this code, sprinklers shall be installed in accordance with 13.3.2.12.5.

8 (2) When the total area of the building exceeds 10,000 ft<sup>2</sup> (929 m<sup>2</sup>), an automatic  
9 sprinkler system meeting the minimum requirements of NFPA 13D shall be installed.

10 (C) Within any development that is subject to the Hillside Development Standards and  
11 Guidelines set forth in LVMC 19.06.170, all buildings shall be protected throughout by an automatic  
12 sprinkler system meeting the requirements of section 13.3.2.12.5.

13 SECTION 6: Figures 1-11, as attached to this Ordinance, are adopted as part of  
14 LVMC Chapter 19.06.170, and shall be published and codified as Subsection (E) thereof.

15 SECTION 7: For purposes of Section 2.100(3) of the City Charter, LVMC  
16 19.20.020 is deemed to be a subchapter rather than a section.

17 SECTION 8: If any section, subsection, subdivision, paragraph, sentence, clause or  
18 phrase in this ordinance or any part thereof is for any reason held to be unconstitutional or invalid or  
19 ineffective by any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity or  
20 effectiveness of the remaining portions of this ordinance or any part thereof. The City Council of the  
21 City of Las Vegas hereby declares that it would have passed each section, subsection, subdivision,  
22 paragraph, sentence, clause or phrase thereof irrespective of the fact that any one or more sections,  
23 subsections, subdivisions, paragraphs, sentences, clauses or phrases be declared unconstitutional,  
24 invalid or ineffective.

25 ...

26 ...

27 ...

28 ...

1 SECTION 9: All ordinances or parts of ordinances or sections, subsections, phrases,  
2 sentences, clauses or paragraphs contained in the Municipal Code of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada,  
3 1983 Edition, in conflict herewith are hereby repealed.

4 PASSED, ADOPTED and APPROVED this 15<sup>TH</sup> day of August, 2007.

5 APPROVED:

6  
7 By   
8 OSCAR B. GOODMAN, Mayor

9 ATTEST:

10   
11 BEVERLY K. BRIDGES, CMC  
12 City Clerk

13 APPROVED AS TO FORM:

14 Val Steed 7-3-07  
15 Date

1 The above and foregoing ordinance was first proposed and read by title to the City Council  
2 on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2007, and referred to a committee for recommendation; thereafter  
3 the committee reported favorably on said ordinance on the 15<sup>th</sup> day of August, 2007,  
4 which as a regular meeting of said Council; that at said regular meeting, the proposed  
5 ordinance was read by title to the City Council as first introduced and adopted by the  
6 following vote:

7 VOTING "AYE": Mayor Goodman and Councilmembers Reese, Brown, Wolfson,  
8 Tarkanian, Ross and Barlow

9 VOTING "NAY": None

10 EXCUSED: None

11 ABSTAINED: None

12 APPROVED:

13   
14 OSCAR B. GOODMAN, Mayor

15 ATTEST:

16   
17 BEVERLY K. BRIDGES, City Clerk

Figure 1

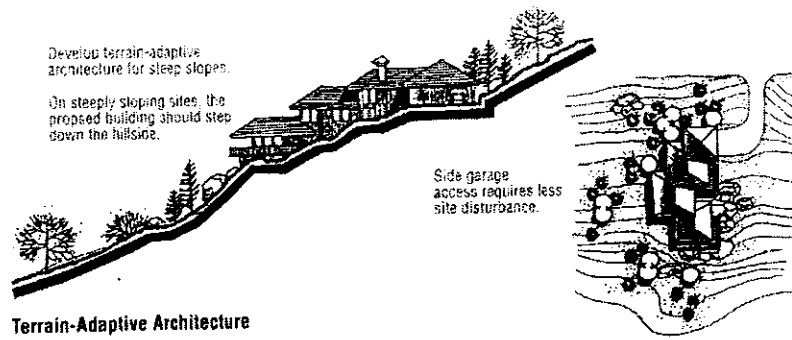


Figure 2

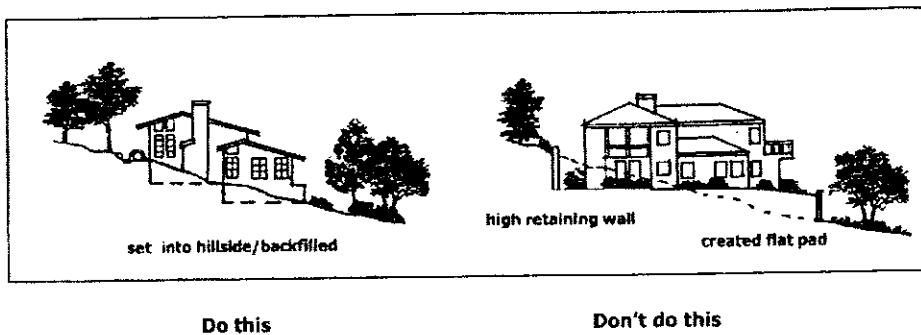


Figure 3

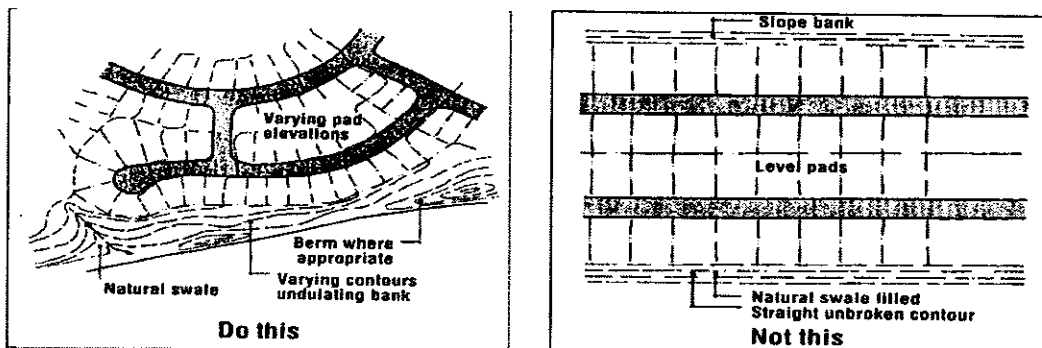
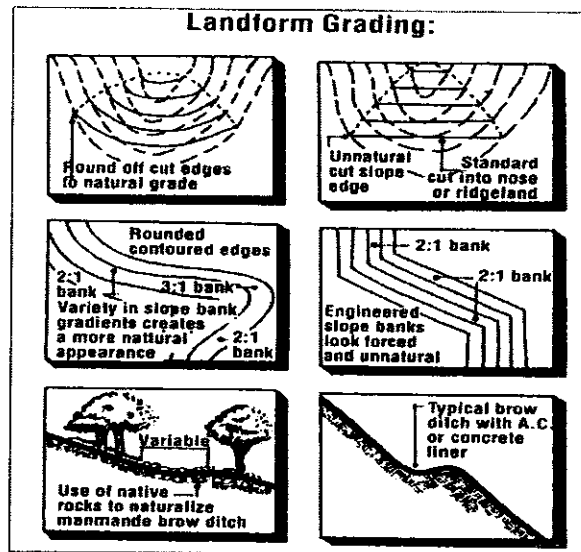
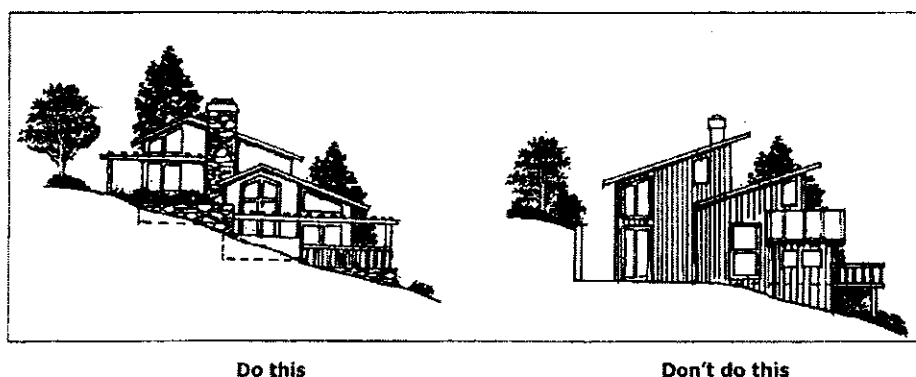


Figure 4



Do this

Don't do this

Figure 5

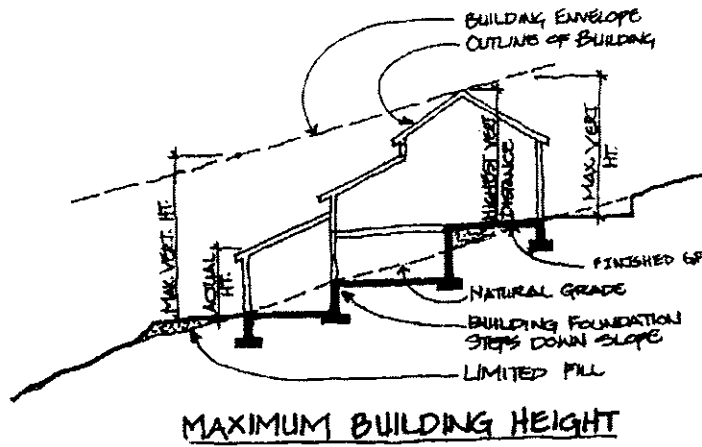


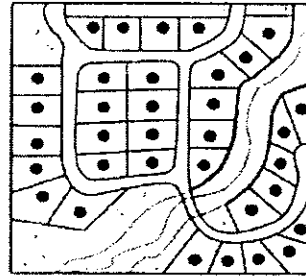
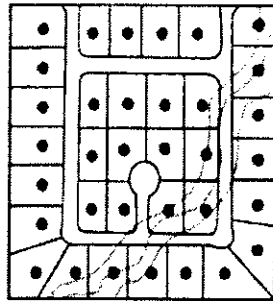
Figure 6



Roof forms are kept small and reflect the surrounding topography

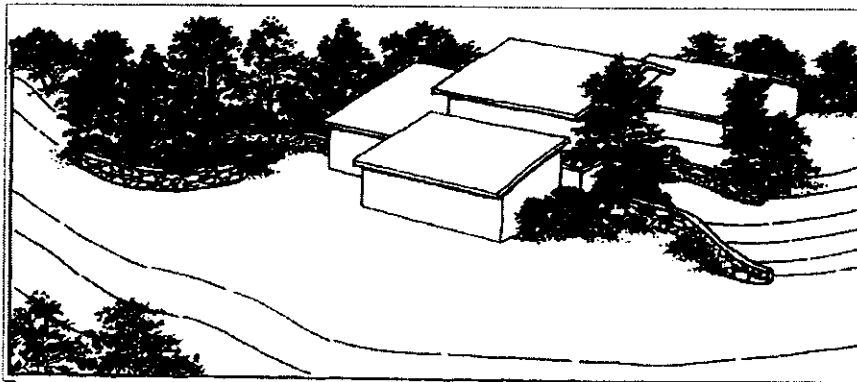
Figure 7

Not clustered



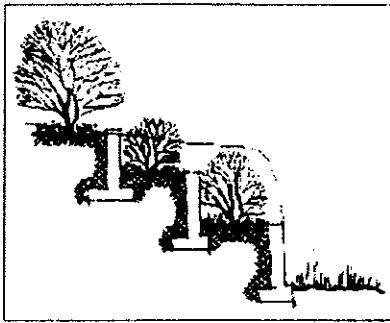
Clustered to preserve natural site features

Figure 8



Retaining walls blend with the natural topography

Figure 9



*Use retaining walls and terraces to minimize cut and fill that would alter the perceived natural topography of the site. Screen retaining walls with plant materials, or face them with rock.*

Figure 10

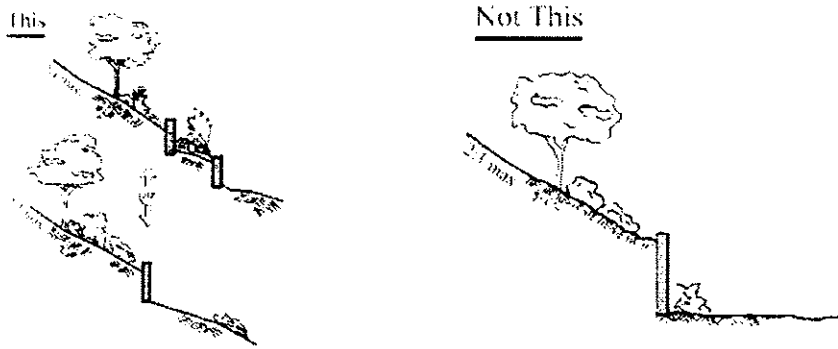
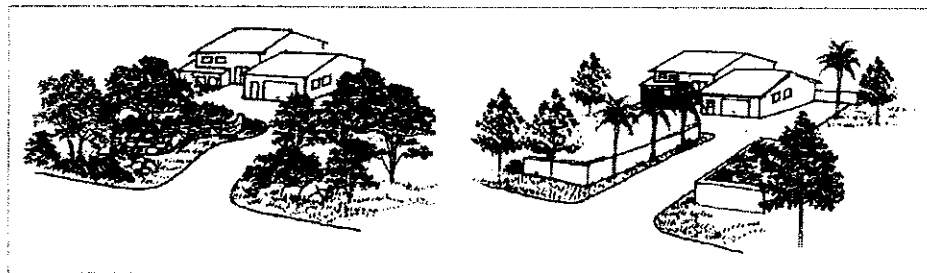


Figure 11

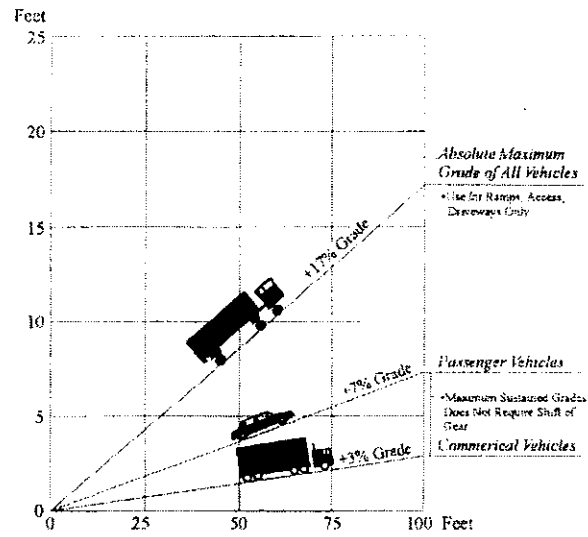


Do this

Don't do this

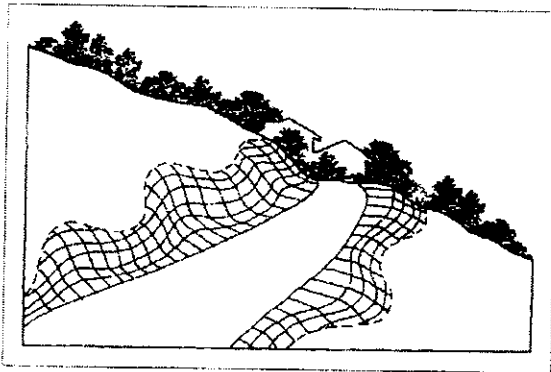


Figure 12



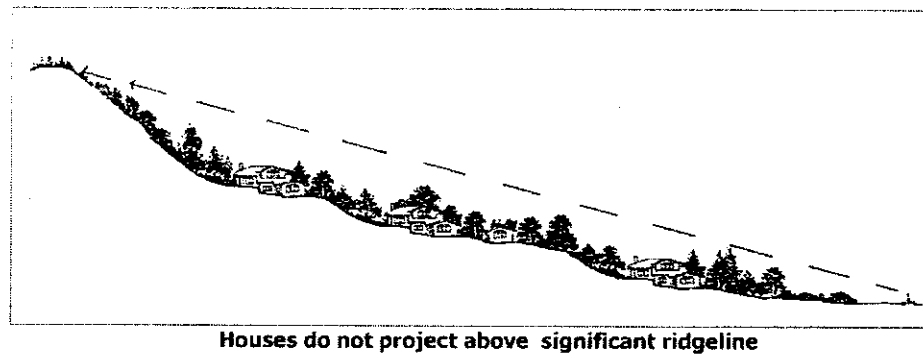
Source: Urban Planning and Design Criteria, Joseph Dechuta/Lee Koppelman 3<sup>rd</sup> edition, 1982

Figure 13



**Modulate manufactured slopes to appear natural**

Figure 14



**BUSINESS IMPACT STATEMENT**  
**BILL NO. 2007-36**  
**(Adopts development standards and guidelines for hillside areas)**

This business impact statement was prepared pursuant to NRS 237.090 to address the impact of a proposed ordinance, Bill No. 2007-36, that will adopt development standards and guidelines for hillside areas. The only aspect of the proposed ordinance that is the focus of potential business impact is the provision in Section 5 regarding the sprinklering of dwellings.

**1. The following constitutes a description of the manner in which comment was solicited from affected businesses, a summary of their responses and an explanation of the manner in which other interested persons may obtain a copy of the summary.**

Notice of the proposed ordinance and an invitation to respond was sent to the Southern Nevada Homebuilders Association. No response was received.

**2. The estimated economic effect of the proposed rule on businesses, including, without limitation, both adverse and beneficial effects, and both direct and indirect effects:**

**Adverse effects:**

Possible increased costs in construction of dwellings.

**Beneficial effects:**

Increased safety and security for residents and guests of hillside development.

**Direct effects:**

Possible increased costs in construction of dwellings.

**Indirect effects:**

Increased safety and security for residents and guests of hillside development.

**3. The following constitutes a description of the methods the local government considered to reduce the impact of the proposed rule on businesses and a statement regarding whether any, and if so which, of these methods were used:**

Not applicable.

**4. The governing body estimates the annual cost to the local government for enforcement of the proposed rule is:**

No additional cost for enforcement.

**5. If the proposed rule provides for a new fee or increases an existing fee, the total annual amount expected to be collected is:**

No additional fees.

**6. If the proposed rule provides for a new fee or increases an existing fee, the money generated by the new fee or increase in existing fee will be used by the local government to:**

Not applicable.

**7. If the proposed rule includes provisions that duplicate or are more stringent than federal, state or local standards regulating the same activity, the following explains why such duplicative or more stringent provisions are necessary:**

The provisions of this ordinance, to the extent that they duplicate or are more stringent than federal, state or local standards regulating the same activity, are deemed necessary in order to provide adequate safety and security.

Date: July 3, 2007

AFFP DISTRICT COURT  
Clark County, Nevada

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NEVADA)  
COUNTY OF CLARK) SS:

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK

2007 AUG 17 A 10: 46

Stacey M. Lewis, being 1st duly sworn, deposes and says: That she is the Legal Clerk for the Las Vegas Review-Journal and the Las Vegas Sun, daily newspapers regularly issued, published and circulated in the City of Las Vegas, County of Clark, State of Nevada, and that the advertisement, a true copy attached for,

LV CITY CLERK

2296311LV

2512905

was continuously published in said Las Vegas Review-Journal and / or Las Vegas Sun in 1 edition(s) of said newspaper issued from 08/03/2007 to 08/03/2007, on the following days:

08/03/2007

BILL NO. 2007-36

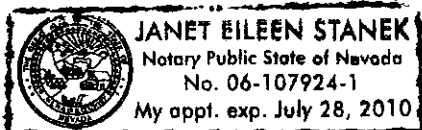
AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR HILLSIDE AREAS WITHIN THE CITY, AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS.

Sponsored by: Councilman Larry Brown  
Summary: Adopts development standards and guidelines for hillside areas.

At the City Council meeting of JULY 18, 2007, BILL NO. 2007-36 WAS READ BY TITLE AND REFERRED TO A RECOMMENDING COMMITTEE.

COPIES OF THE COMPLETE ORDINANCE ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, 3RD FLOOR, 400 STEWART AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.

PUB: August 3, 2007  
LV Review-Journal



Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

*Stacey M. Lewis*

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME THIS, THE

*3rd* day of *August*, 2007.

Notary Public

*Janet E. Stanek*

AFFP DISTRICT COURT  
Clark County, Nevada

RECEIVED  
CITY CLERK

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

2007 AUG 27 A 11: 24

STATE OF NEVADA)  
COUNTY OF CLARK) SS:

Stacey M. Lewis, being 1st duly sworn, deposes and says: That she is the Legal Clerk for the Las Vegas Review-Journal and the Las Vegas Sun, daily newspapers regularly issued, published and circulated in the City of Las Vegas, County of Clark, State of Nevada, and that the advertisement, a true copy attached for,

LV CITY CLERK

2296311LV

2592707

was continuously published in said Las Vegas Review-Journal and / or Las Vegas Sun in 1 edition(s) of said newspaper issued from 08/18/2007 to 08/18/2007, on the following days:

08/18/2007

BILL NO. 2007-36  
ORDINANCE NO. 5923

AN ORDINANCE TO ADOPT DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES FOR HILLSIDE AREAS WITHIN THE CITY AND TO PROVIDE FOR OTHER RELATED MATTERS

Sponsored by: Councilman Larry Brown  
Summary: Adopts development standards and guidelines for hillside areas.

The following is a true and correct copy of the Ordinance as adopted by the City Council on the 15th day of August 2007.

That on the 15th day of August 2007, the City Council of the City of Las Vegas, Nevada, did pass and adopted the following Ordinance: Ordinance No. 5923, which was a regular meeting of said City Council; and that at said regular meeting the proposed ordinance was read by title to the City Council as first introduced and was adopted by the following vote:

VOTING "AYE": Mayor Goodman and Councilmembers Reese, Brown, Wolfson, Tarkanian, Ross, and Barlow.  
VOTING "NAY": NONE  
EXCUSED: NONE

COPIES OF THE COMPLETE ORDINANCE ARE AVAILABLE FOR PUBLIC INFORMATION IN THE OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK, 1ST FLOOR, 400 STEWART AVENUE, LAS VEGAS, NEVADA.

PUB: August 18, 2007  
LV Review Journal

Signed:

*Stacey M. Lewis*

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME THIS, THE

20 day of August, 2007.

Notary Public

*Mary B. Sheffield*



MARY B. SHEFFIELD  
Notary Public State of Nevada  
No. 99-53968-1  
My appt. exp. Mar. 8, 2011